

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-36 remain pending in the application. By this Amendment, a substitute abstract is provided; and claims 1, 6, 10, 15, 19, 24, 28 and 33 amended. No new matter is added.

In numbered paragraph 3, page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to the abstract. In response a substitute abstract is provided to obviate the objection. Support for the added disclosure is found in the specification, at least at paragraph [0013]. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In numbered paragraph 5, page 3 of the Office Action, independent claims 1, 6, 10, 15, 19, 24, 28 and 33, along with all dependent claims, are rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,047,330 (Stracke, Jr. et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has disclosed a method and system for identifying the health of virtual routers in a network (e.g., paragraph [00013]). As exemplified in Figure 1, the health of a virtual router represents whether the routers of the virtual router are configured for their appropriate active and standby states based on each router's priority. In step 105, first information is obtained from first and second routers of a virtual router. The first information can include the IP address for the virtual router, the group number for the virtual router, the group priority for a router of the virtual router, a group standby state for a router of the virtual router and the actual IP address for the router of the virtual router (e.g., paragraph [00013]). Accordingly, routers are identified as members of a virtual router, e.g., the group priority being used to identify which router is the active router of the virtual router.

The foregoing features are broadly encompassed by claim 1, which recites, among other features, a method for identifying the active and standby states of plural routers within a virtual router in a network, comprising obtaining first information from a first and second router of a virtual router, using the first information to determine the active and standby states within the virtual router, and producing a topology of the network identifying the active and standby states.

The Stracke patent discloses a router discovery system for virtual routers automatically builds a multicast virtual network over an existing network topology. The Stracke patent relates to automatic and dynamic adaptations of already operating routers to changes in the network topology. For example, when a router goes down, the router's operating neighbors open up connections to their next-nearest neighbors until the connectivity of the virtual network is restored. The Stracke patent does not relate to identifying active and standby states of virtual routers in a network as claimed.

The Stracke patent does not teach or suggest using the first information to determine the active and standby states of the virtual router, and producing a topology of the network identifying the active and standby states. Rather, the system as disclosed by the Stracke patent relies on adaptations by already active routers to changes in the network topology. The Stracke patent does not render obvious identifying active and standby states of virtual routers in a network as claimed.


At least for these reasons, independent claim 1 is therefore allowable. Applicants' independent claims 6, 10, 15, 19, 24, 28 and 33 similarly recite the aforementioned claim features, and are also allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit independent claims 1, 6, 10, 15, 19, 24, 28 and 33 are allowable.

The remaining claims depend from the independent claims and recite additional advantageous features which further distinguish over the documents relied upon by the Examiner. As such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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